

Mr. Vincent Chauke  
Case Officer  
Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorizations  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
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**0001**

Date:  
26 July 2017

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Dear Mr Chauke

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE AMENDMENT APPLICATION: OUTENIQUA-  
OUDTSHOORN 132kV OVERHEAD POWER LINE, EDEN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,  
WESTERN CAPE – DEA REFERENCE NUMBER: 14/12/16/3/3/1/613/AM2**

The Acknowledgement of Receipt and Request for Additional Information for the Amendment Application (DEA Reference: **14/12/16/3/3/1/613/AM2**) dated 21 July 2017, refers.

The submitted Application for Amendment pertains to the re-alignment of 3 pole positions required at the end of the power line where it feeds into the existing Outeniqua substation, due to technical engineering constraints.

The said deviation refers to 393 meters of line which will all be located within an existing Eskom servitude which already contains the Droerivier / Proteus 1 400kV overhead line and the Dysselsdorp / Outeniqua 1 132kV overhead line. The proposed three pole, 393 meters of line deviation will not result in any significant impact/ change and no change in scope, as it is still very close to the approved route and the receiving environment is exactly the same as the approved. An enlarged map of the proposed deviation was submitted with the Amendment Application and an additional map is also attached to this letter.

It is important to note that, the FBAR for the approved Outeniqua-Oudthoorn Powerline project highlights the following in support of the botanist and avifaunal specialist:

- Pg. 4, Par2: The surrounding area of the existing Outeniqua Substation is substantially altered with existing infrastructure, heavy livestock grazing and agricultural activities (e.g. ploughing, cultivation)
- Pg. 4, Par2: Negatively impacting agricultural and grazing activities appear to outweigh the negative impacts of the powerline development in the area, from a botanical perspective.
- Pg. 35, Par6: There is only a small CBA traversed 2km before the existing Oudtshoorn Substation. No CBA or vegetation of similar value was identified near Outeniqua Substation where the deviation is proposed. (*The Botanical Statement Attached confirms this and that there is no impact on any botanical resources as a result of the deviation*)

- Pg. 36, Par2: The heritage resources identified near the powerline routes are insignificant and no mitigation measures were suggested.

A final line walkthrough was undertaken by a botanist and avifaunal specialist from 14-16 March 2017 as per conditions 24 and 35, and 34, respectively. The final line route which includes the proposed line deviation was assessed during the final line walkthrough. Based on the findings and recommendations made by these specialists the line route has been updated and pole positions shifted to more favorable positions in order to avoid and minimize environmental impacts.

The Botanical and Avifaunal Specialists has evaluated the deviation as part of the final route walk-down and noted/ recommended the following:

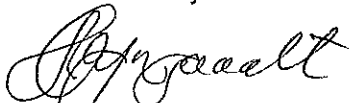
- Avifaunal Specialist Report, Pg. 7: Noted that towers the entire powerline from start to finish (including the deviation at towers 110-114) poses a collision risk and has recommended that the entire powerline be marked with anti-collision bird marking devices. Note that the deviation traverses arable lands (agriculture) and blue cranes may be present on the property, however the deviation has not been singled out as a greater risk area than the rest of the powerline, the risk remains exactly the same.
- Avifaunal Specialist Report, Pg.8: The recommendation to fit bird flight diverters should provide an acceptable level of mitigation. Please note that Eskom has incorporated this recommendation as part of the project scope as well as an already bird-friendly engineering design.
- Botanical Specialist Additional Letter following final walk-down and consideration of deviation: Noted that there would be no significant difference in terms of negative impacts on the vegetation and flora between that of the original route and the deviation route.

Details of the specialist are as follows:

<p><b><u>Botanical Specialist-</u></b>  Dr David J. McDonald  Bergwind Botanical Surveys &amp; Tours CC  14A Thomson Road  Claremont  7708  Tel. +27 21 671-4056  Mobile: +27 82 876-4051  E-mail: <a href="mailto:dave@bergwind.co.za">dave@bergwind.co.za</a>  Web: <a href="http://www.bergwind.co.za">www.bergwind.co.za</a></p>	<p><b><u>Avifaunal specialist-</u></b>  Jon Smallie  Wildskies Ecological Services  Mobile: +27 82 444 8919  Fax: 086 615 5654  E-mail: <a href="mailto:jon@wildskies.co.za">jon@wildskies.co.za</a></p>
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Kindly find attached the Botanical Statement as well as the Avifaunal Report (page 24 and 25 recommends bird diverters on the proposed line deviation) as requested by the Department of Environmental Affairs to satisfy the requirements of a Part 1 of Chapter 5 Amendment of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Yours sincerely



Justine Wyngaardt  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER:**